

Reuse, Recycling and Environmental Issues

Student Essay and Poster Contest

If you are a student in grades K through 12, this is your opportunity to show and tell us about your ideas on reuse and recycling and the future of our planet.



Send in your essays and posters by March 14, 2005 for a chance to win one of many VERY COOL PRIZES! Five winners will be chosen for the poster contest and three for the essay contest.

Essay Question:

If you could be on TV for three minutes and say something about reuse, recycling and environmental protection to all the leaders and citizens of the United States, what would you say?

Poster Design:

Draw a poster that encourages people to reuse, recycle and give away instead of throwing away waste.

Lowell Contest Sponsor:

Russell Disposal, Greater Lowell Environmental Education Alliance
City of Lowell and Mass Dept of Environmental Protection

1) About the Contest



The purpose of the essay contest is to ask students to focus on the key environmental issues of today and think about what message they want to send to the government and citizens about the kind of future they would like to see. There are many problems locally and globally that currently face our planet. You can address wastefulness, energy efficiency, global warming, mercury in our fish, a lack of drinking water, smog in our cities, a loss of biodiversity and important open spaces, or other topics. There are no restrictions on the topics or issues students may select.

There will be one winner selected from three grade groupings for the essays:
Grades 4-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12.

There will be three winners from each of five grade groupings for the posters:
Grades K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Prizes for Students: Essay winners in each category will receive a prize. Prizes may include a savings bond, a jersey of their favorite Boston sports team player, fleece jacket or a \$100 gift certificate to a local shopping mall. Poster winners in each grade grouping will receive cash prizes of \$50, \$30 or \$20.

We hope that group leaders will use this contest as an opportunity to talk about environmental issues facing us and will urge students to think carefully about the message they would like to send in their individual essays and posters.

Media Coverage: Essays will be posted on www.LowellRecycle.org and posters will be shown on the local cable TV channel, where feasible. Winning essays will be sent to local newspapers in the winner's community. All winning students (and teachers/group leaders, parents, or guardian) will be invited to a presentation of awards (see section 7).

2) Contest Dates

- The contest deadline is March 14, 2005 (All entries must be received by this date to be considered).

3) Guidelines For Writing the Essay

Students are encouraged to be creative with their writing, and submit an essay, a letter, or whatever written format they think is the most compelling. Given the varying ages, we recommend the following lengths:

- 250 words or fewer for grade 4-5
- 500 words or fewer for grades 6-8
- 750 words or fewer for grades 9-12

Students should stay within this word limit. The judging will also consider spelling, grammar and punctuation as well as content.

Teachers and Group Leaders: you will receive a \$20 gift certificate to Staples if your student is a winner. If you are making this a class assignment, please submit the 10 best entries from your class.

4) Guidelines For Drawing Your Poster

Students are encouraged to be creative in making their posters. The posters should be between 8 1/2" x 11" and 11" x 20" in size and on white or off-white paper or posterboard. Include your name, school and grade.

5) Criteria For Judging Essays and Posters

Essays and posters will be reviewed by judges from the community, and a representative from Keep Lowell Beautiful. Winners will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Is the essay or poster compelling and convincing?
- Does the essay or poster reflect new thoughts and personal ideas?
- Does the essay or poster clearly and creatively convey its message?
- Did the student check his/her work for spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.?
- Is the essay within the word limit required?



6) Contest Rules and Submission Information

- All students (public, private) are eligible.
- Essays and posters must be done by an individual student and may be submitted by that student or by their teacher, parent, or guardian.
- Multiple essays from one class or school can be submitted simultaneously.
- Deliver posters to: Tina Klein, Recycling Coordinator. Lowell City Hall, Room 34 or call 978-446-7277 by March 7th to arrange for pickup on March 11th.
- It is preferred that essays are submitted as an email attachment or in the body of the email to Carolyn.Dann@kema.com. Essays may also be submitted by regular mail to: Carolyn Dann, Regional Recycling Coordinator with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, c/o Kema, Three Burlington Woods, Burlington, MA 01803, and should contain the following:
 - Student's name, address, email if available, grade, school name, school address, school telephone number, and the full name of the teacher, advisor, parent or leader who encouraged and/or assisted with your participation in the contest.
- Entrants should follow the essay length guidelines listed above.
- All decisions of the judges are final.
- All entries are the property of the City of Lowell.
- Deadline for essay submission is **March 14, 2005**.

7) Awards Presentation

Winners will be notified by April 1, 2005 and will be invited to attend an awards event at the Earth Day Festival on April 30 and/or a City Council Meeting around the same timeframe.

Deadline for all Submissions: March 14, 2005

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